



**PATENT  
DOCKET NO. 1273 CIP CON FWC CON III  
(203-589 CIP CON FWC CON III)**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**APPLICANT:** David Nicholas, et al.      **EXAMINER:** Sarah K Webb  
**SERIAL NO.:** 10/037,977      **ART UNIT:** 3731  
**FILED:** November 9, 2001      **DATED:** August 26, 2004  
**FOR:** **ARTICULATING ENDOSCOPIC SURGICAL APPARATUS**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the listed items are enclosed.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August .

Dated: August 26, 2004

  
Susan S. Rickard

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

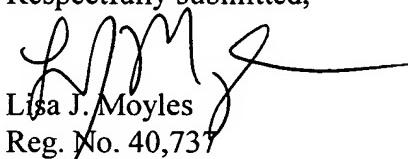
- [ ] This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.
- [ ] This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.
- [ ] To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.
- [ ] Enclosed herewith is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).
- [ ] Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(ii).
- [ ] Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))
- [ ] Please charge the \$130.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.
- [ ] Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- [ ] Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

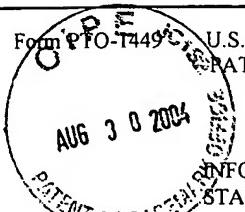
[X] Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account **21-0550**. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. **21-0550** therefor

**TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.**

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lisa J. Moyles  
Reg. No. 40,737  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  (Use several sheets if necessary)		ATTY. DOCKET NO.: 203-589 CIP CON FWC CON III	SERIAL NO.: 10/037,977
		APPLICANTS: David A. Nichols et al.	
		FILING DATE: November 9, 2001	GROUP ART UNIT: 3731

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
		0165472A2	12/1985	EPO				
		0405250A1	1/1991	EPO				
		0412282A1	2/1999	EPO				
		2469912	11/1979	FRANCE				
		8535164	4/1986	GERMANY				
		101674	4/1988	GERMANY				
		736949	5/1980	U.S.S.R.				
		1360708A1	12/1987	U.S.S.R.				
		980703	12/1982	U.S.S.R.				
		990220	1/1983	U.S.S.R.				

## OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER DATE CONSIDERED

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.